

A CONCEPTUAL OF PARENT-MEDIATED BEHAVIOURAL INTERVENTION TRAINING MODEL FOR PARENTS OF AUTISTIC CHILDREN IN LOW-RESOURCE AREAS

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ABSTRACT

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a lifelong neurodevelopmental disorder with early onset that affects cognitive, motor, and social functioning. It is underlying etiological factors including genetic conditions or environmental factors contribute to the disorder. Autistic children face difficulties in social interaction and communication along with the presence of repetitive and restricted behaviours and interests. They often exhibit challenging behaviours that can result in social rejection, exclusion from community settings, and emotional distress, and hinder them from accessing quality inclusive education environments. However, parents of autistic children in low resource areas not only experience insufficient healthcare system capacity, limited availability of ASD-specific intervention services, geographic areas barriers, and financial burdens, but they also lack behavioural management knowledge and strategies in managing their autistic children's challenging behaviours at naturalistic home environment. Parental stress levels would be increased affecting parent-child relationships and the overall family's quality of life. Therefore, the approach of Design and Developmental Research (DDR) is adopted in the research study to develop a Parent-Mediated Naturalistic Developmental Behavioural Intervention (NDBI) training model for parents of autistic children in low-resource areas. The DDR consist of three phases which are Phase I, which Needs Analysis to identify the problems in the Malaysia context, Phase II Design and Development to design and develop a parent-mediated NDBI training model, and Phase Evaluation to evaluate the usability of the training model. Theoretical perspectives in this parent-mediated NDBI training model include Ecological System Theory, Behaviourism Learning Theory, and Cognitive Social Learning Theory. Therefore, this cost-effective parent-mediated NDBI training model equips and empowers parents of autistic children with necessary developmental and behavioural-based strategies and techniques to manage their autistic children's challenging behaviours more effectively in a naturalistic home environment. It also highlights the importance of parental involvement in facilitating parent-mediated behavioural intervention (PMBI) to support their autistic children's learning and development. In a conclusion, parents are considered primary intervention agents and pivotal change behaviour agents to implement PMBI to manage their autistic children's challenging behaviours in home settings.

Keywords: Parent-Mediated Behavioural Intervention, Training Model, Challenging Behaviours, Autistic Children, Low-Resource Areas.